

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An advanced voting system, comprising:
an election key generator operable to generate ~~an~~ a tangible election key storing information related to a voter and storing a digital signature used to ensure that the election key is valid and authentic;
one or more computing devices operable to:
interface with the election key;
retrieve the digital signature from the election key to ensure that the election key is valid and authentic;
present ballot questions to the voter if an appropriate digital signature is retrieved from the election key; and
receive interactive voter selections from the voter; and
a ballot generator operable to generate tangible ballots containing the voter selections.
2. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, further comprising one or more data storage locations operable to store a plurality of registrations records, each registration record includes a digitized voter signature.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, further comprising one or more data storage locations operable to store a plurality of registrations records, each registration record includes at least one biometric sample.
4. (Canceled)
5. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more computing devices are further operable to use the information retrieved from the election key to identify ballot questions stored at the computing device that are appropriate for the voter.
6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the election key comprises a bar-coded card, a magnetic strip card, a writeable optical storage disc, or a magnetic storage disc.

8. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the computing device is operable to store one or more voter selections in a voting record.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the voting record comprises a unique identifier linking the voting record to a particular computing device.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 8, wherein the voting record comprises a digital signature particular to the voter's precinct.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the computing device is further operable to receive voter selections by human touch on a monitor.

12. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the computing device is further operable to present interactive help screens in a voter-selectable language.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the computing device is further operable to generate recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the computing device is further operable to compare the identifying information stored in a registration record to identifying information provided by the voter at the time of voting.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the tangible ballot includes a unique identifier to link the ballot to a particular computing device.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the tangible ballot includes a digital signature related to the voter's precinct.

17. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the tangible ballot includes an anonymous voter identifier to link the tangible ballot to the voter.

18. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more computing devices are operable to audit whether an appropriate number of selections has been made by the voter as governed by election laws and the particular ballot questions.

19. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the one or more computing devices are personal digital assistants.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the advanced voting system further comprises a tallying system, the tallying system operable to:

receive voter selections of a plurality of voters from one or more of the computing devices;

electronically tally the voter selections to reach one or more ballot question totals; and

audit the one or more ballot question totals using the tangible ballots containing the voter's selections.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 20, wherein:
the tallying system further comprises a ballot reader operable to tally voter selections included on a plurality of tangible ballots; and
auditing the ballot question totals comprises comparing tally of votes from tangible ballots with the electronic tally of votes.

22. (Original) The system of Claim 1, wherein the advanced voting system further comprises a tallying system, the tallying system comprising:
a voting record stored on one or more of the computing devices, the voting record comprising one or more voter selections from a plurality of voters; and
a tallying computer operable to communicate with the voting record and electronically tally voter selections to reach one or more ballot question totals.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the advanced voting system further comprises a tallying system, the tallying system operable to:
receive voter selections of a plurality of voters from one or more of the computing devices;
store a voting record on one or more of the computing devices, the voting record comprising one or more voter selections from a plurality of voters;
electronically tally the voter selections using a tallying computer to reach one or more ballot question totals; and
audit the one or more ballot question totals using the tangible ballots containing the voter's selections.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the advanced voting system further comprises at least one tangible ballot reader, each tangible ballot reader operable to tally voter selections of a plurality of voters included on tangible ballots.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the advanced voting system further comprises at least one tangible ballot reader, each tangible ballot reader operable to present the voter selections included on the tangible ballot to the voter to allow the voter to verify the voter selections.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein:
the one or more computing devices are further operable to present an option to a voter allowing the voter to choose to write-in one or more voter selections; and
the ballot generator is further operable to create a write-in selection space on the tangible ballot.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for advanced voting, comprising:

generating ~~an~~ a tangible election key using an election key generator, the election key storing information related to a voter and storing a digital signature used to ensure that the election key is valid and authentic;

retrieving the digital signature from the election key at a voting booth to ensure that the election key is valid and authentic;

presenting ballot questions to the voter if an appropriate digital signature is retrieved from the election key;

receiving interactive voter selections from the voter at the voting booth;

generating tangible ballots containing the voter selections using a ballot generator;
and

electronically tallying voter selections by a plurality of voters.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of 27, further comprising storing a plurality of registration records in a data storage location, wherein each registration record includes a digitized voter signature.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, further comprising storing a plurality of registration records in a data storage location, wherein each registration record includes at least one biometric sample.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Original) The method of Claim 27, wherein the election key comprises a bar-coded card, a magnetic strip card, a writeable optical storage disc, or a magnetic storage disc.

34. (Original) The method of 27, further comprising storing one or more voter selections in a voting record.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the voting record comprises a unique identifier linking the voting record to a particular voting booth.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 34, wherein the voting record comprises a digital signature particular to the voter's precinct.

37. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising receiving the voter selections by human touch on a monitor.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of 27, further comprising presenting interactive help screens in a voter-selectable language.

39. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising generating recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising comparing the identifying information stored in a registration record to identifying information provided by the voter at the time of voting.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising auditing whether an appropriate number of selections has been made by the voter as governed by election laws and the particular ballot questions.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
electronically tallying voter selections by a plurality of voters to reach one or more ballot question totals; and
auditing the one or more ballot question totals using the tangible ballots containing the voter's selections.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 42, wherein tallying voter selections further includes detecting irregularities in voter selections.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
storing one or more voter selections from a plurality of voters at the voting booth; and
communicating the voting record to a tallying computer, the tallying computer operable to electronically tally voter selections to reach one or more ballot question totals.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
receiving voter selections of a plurality of voters from one or more of the computing devices;
storing a voting record on one or more of the computing devices, the voting record comprising one or more voter selections from a plurality of voters;
electronically tallying the voter selections using a tallying computer to reach one or more ballot question totals; and
auditing the one or more ballot question totals using the tangible ballots containing the voter's selections.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
presenting the voter with the option of choosing to write-in the voter selections; and
providing a write-in selection space on the tangible ballot.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) An advanced voting system, comprising:

means for generating ~~an~~ a tangible election key, the election key storing information related to a voter and storing a digital signature used to ensure that the election key is valid and authentic;

means for interfacing with the election key and retrieving the digital signature from the election key to ensure that the election key is valid and authentic;

means for presenting ballot questions to the voter if an appropriate digital signature is retrieved from the election key;

means for receiving interactive voter selections from the voter; and

means for generating tangible ballots containing the voter's selections.

49. (Currently Amended) Advanced voting software embodied in a computer-readable medium and operable to:

receive information related to a voter and a digital signature from ~~an~~ a tangible election key, the digital signature used to ensure that the election key is valid and authentic;

present ballot questions to the voter if an appropriate digital signature is retrieved from the election key;

receive interactive voter selections from the voter; and

generate tangible ballots containing the voter selections.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Canceled)

52. (Canceled)

53. (Original) The software of Claim 49, further operable to receive voter selections by human touch on a monitor.

54. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 49, further operable to present interactive help in a voter-selectable language.

55. (Original) The software of Claim 49, further operable to generate recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language.

56. (Original) The software of Claim 49, further operable to audit whether an appropriate number of selections has been made by the voter as governed by election laws and the particular ballot questions.

57. (Previously Presented) The software of Claim 49, further operable to:
present an option to the voter allowing a voter to choose to write-in the voter
selections; and
generating a write-in selection space on the tangible ballot.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of
the voter selections on the tangible ballot are machine-readable.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Canceled)

62. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein:
the computing device further comprises a touch-sensitive screen operable to
receive voter selections when a voter touches a location on the screen; and
the computing device is further operable to determine a voter selection
regardless of where the voter touches the touch-sensitive screen.

63. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 62, wherein the computing
device is further operable to:

broadcast recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language to the
voter before receiving the interactive voter selections from the voter, the recorded auditory
instructions comprising a plurality of recorded prompts instructing the voter on how to enter a
voter selection; and

determine the intent of the voter by associating the time proximity between
when the recorded prompt was broadcasted to the voter and when the screen was touched.

64. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 62, wherein the computing device is further operable to:

broadcast recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language to the voter after receiving the interactive voter selections from the voter, the auditory instructions giving a voter a choice between reviewing one or more previously made voter selections associated with a previous ballot question or skipping forward to a next ballot question;

receive voter selections from an input device coupled to the computing device, the input device being in addition to the touch-sensitive screen; and

process the voter choice as received by the input device.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein the voter selections are included on the tangible ballot using a barcode.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
reading the tangible ballot using a tangible ballot reader; and
presenting voter selections encoded on the tangible ballot to the voter to allow the voter to verify the voter selections.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein at least a portion of the voter selections on the tangible ballot are machine-readable.

68. (Canceled)

69. (Canceled)

70. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 42, wherein auditing the one or more ballot question totals comprises verifying the number of electronically tallied voter selections by comparing the number of electronically tallied voter selections with the number of tangible ballots.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, further comprising:
receiving voter selections on a touch-sensitive screen when a voter touches a location on the screen; and
determining a voter selection regardless of where the voter touches the touch-sensitive screen.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 71, further comprising:
broadcasting recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language to the voter before receiving the interactive voter selections from the voter, the recorded auditory instructions comprising a plurality of recorded prompts instructing the voter on how to enter a voter selection; and
determining the intent of the voter by associating the time proximity between when the recorded prompt was broadcasted to the voter and when the screen was touched.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 71, further comprising:
broadcasting recorded auditory instructions in a voter-selectable language to the voter after receiving the interactive voter selections from the voter, the auditory instructions giving a voter a choice between reviewing one or more previously made voter selections associated with a previous ballot question or skipping forward to a next ballot question;
receiving voter selections from an input device coupled to the computing device, the input device being in addition to the touch-sensitive screen; and
processing the voter choice as received by the input device.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein the voter selections are included on the tangible ballot using a barcode.

75. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the voter selections on the tangible ballot are human-readable.

76. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 75, wherein the portion of the voter selections that are human-readable are also machine-readable.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein at least a portion of the voter selections on the tangible ballot are human-readable.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 77, wherein the portion of the voter selections that are human-readable are also machine-readable.